

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
NEW JERSEY
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD

GRAZING LAND MECHANICAL TREATMENT
(Acre)
CODE 548**

DEFINITION

Modifying physical soil and/or plant conditions with mechanical tools by treatments such as; pitting, contour furrowing, and ripping or sub-soiling.

PURPOSES

This practice should be applied as part of a conservation management system to support one or more of the following purposes:

- Fracture compacted soil layers and improve soil permeability.
- Reduce water runoff and increase infiltration.
- Break up sod bound conditions and thatch to increase plant vigor.
- Renovate and stimulate plant community for greater productivity and yield.

CONDITIONS WHERE THIS PRACTICE APPLIES

This standard may be applied on pastureland, grazed forest, and native pastures.

CRITERIA

General Criteria Applicable For All The Purposes Stated Above.

Mechanical treatments such as aeration, ripping or subsoiling shall be designed and applied in a manner to accomplish the desired purposes and address the natural resource concerns. These treatments shall be applicable to all soils and slopes.

Areas to be treated shall be relatively free of undesirable or noxious plants that are likely to increase because of surface disturbance.

A minimum of 15 days rest from grazing shall be applied to ensure desired plant responses from this treatment.

This practice should be done between April 1st and May 15th.

CONSIDERATIONS

Pasture and Hay Planting may be used in conjunction with Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment.

Mechanical treatment may not be desirable on areas to be used for recreation due to enhanced surface roughness of the site.

All treatments should be planned on the contour when conditions warrant.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Specifications for installation of Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment shall be prepared for each site or planning unit according to the criteria. Specifications shall include plant species, date, and implement used and be recorded using narrative statements in a conservation plan, or other acceptable document.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Implementation of a good prescribed grazing plan will assist in the long term operation and maintenance of this practice. If the desired effects of this practice is lost over time, the practice may need to be repeated.